

## Meet Barbara Less--candidate for Congress

**Third in a series of biographies of Libertarians in San Mateo County**  
by Steve Marsland



Barbara Less, a resident of Pacifica, California, has decided to run for the 12th Congressional District seat presently held by Tom Lantos. "I want to run because people aren't free to live their own lives. There are just too many laws," she explained with passion. "We don't need more laws."

Barbara has been a stalwart supporter of the Libertarian Party, especially in the last two years where she has served as Publicity Chair and Activities Chair. Many LP Party members have no doubt spoken with Barbara as she extended invitations to LP events by phone.

The story of Barbara Less begins at an orphanage in the Depression. The couple that were to adopt her, Helen and Dave Snide, had wanted a boy. Dave Snide was a successful businessman, operating the first discount shoe store in Oakland, called Snide's Shoes. Helen was a homemaker. When they visited the orphanage, however, Barbara called out to Dave Snide "Da-Da." That captured their hearts and they took Barbara home.

Barbara lost her father when she was 13. Her mother remarried right away, and Barbara attended a series of schools after that first graduating from Oakland High School, then attending college at the College of the Pacific, then the College of Arts and Crafts, then Mount Ida College (a private girls' school) in Newton Center, Massachusetts.

After graduating from college Barbara moved to New York City and was married briefly. Then she moved back to San Francisco.

She attended Heald Business College to add to her business skills, and then got a job at KFRC as traffic manager (scheduling commercials) and assistant copy writer. The radio station was sold, and then Barbara went to work as an office manager for an oral pathologist in San Francisco.

As time passed Barbara realized she needed a job with more security and that provided a pension for her retirement. She took the Civil Service exam and went to work for the San Francisco Unified School District as a senior clerk. She also had a number of special assignments while working for the school district. She worked there for 20 years before retiring.

Prior to her retirement she moved to Pacifica where she presently resides. Barbara has always had a passion for writing, and has written a number of short stories as well as being co-publisher of a writer's magazine. She is involved with volunteer work and keeps four dogs: Heartly, Kelsey IG Watts, Madonna and El Geezy.

"I know that running for public office will be an interesting and educational experience. It is important to me that we adhere to our Constitution. I hope that by running, more people will hear the message of freedom that Libertarians stand for."

## Court victory for medicinal marijuana

**U.S. Circuit Court orders judge to review ban of Prop. 215**  
by Robert Giedt

Earlier last month, the 9th U.S. District Court of Appeals forced U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer to review his decision to shut down a number of cannabis clubs in Northern California, including the Cannabis Cultivators Club and the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative. While this doesn't lead directly to the reopening of those clubs, it is a step in the right direction of enforcing the voter-supported 1996 medical marijuana initiative, Proposition 215.

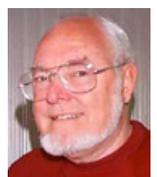
This 30 ruling by the District Court tells Judge Breyer to review his order and to consider an exemption for ailing patients who have no other alternative without the use of the drug. According to the ruling, the government "has yet to identify any interest it may have in blocking the distribution of marijuana to those with medical needs." They also mentioned that the government "has offered no evidence to rebut evidence that cannabis is the only effective treatment for a large group of seriously ill individuals."

The ruling was signed by Judges Stephen Reinhardt, Barry Silverman and Mary Schroeder. *(This article was based on information gathered from the Associated Press.)*

## Why run for the College District?

by Jack Hickey

Having a few high-profile campaigns under my belt (in my days as a Republican), some of you may wonder why I have lowered my sights to the non-partisan College District election.



My interest in the November election began with a solicitation, in late March, from SMCCCD Trustee Tom Constantino seeking my support for a Bond measure. I know Tom from his days as a staffer for former Congressman Bill Royer.

As a retired Research Scientist, my natural instinct led me to research the evolution of the bond proposal. In reviewing summaries of SMCCCD Board meetings, I found a reference to a Godbe Voter Survey received on Oct. 28, 1998. This led to the discovery of other questionable activities mentioned below.

On June 22, I appeared before the SMCCCD Board to speak in opposition to the bond measure. I suggested to the Board, that if the bond were financed from taxes already being collected within the Jarvis-Gann 1% property tax limit, I might consider supporting it. The Board voted that night to place a \$148,000,000 bond measure and property tax surcharge on the November ballot.

On July 21, 1999, I filed candidate papers for Trustee of the SMCCCD Board.

#### **Other questionable activities**

One of these, a \$250,000 PR contract with Bay Relations, entered into on February 1, 1999, has provoked an outstanding, front page article, published by the Independent Newspaper Group.

On July 30, 1999, in a mailing apparently targeted to likely voters, John & Jo Hickey received the "Golden Ring" brochure from SMCCCD via USPS San Mateo, CA Permit #27 (non-profit). My initial request for a copy of the mailing list was denied. A Public Records Act request is pending. Information and pictures regarding this mailing, and a second one are posted on my website at <http://users.cwnet.com/jackhick>.

In addition to the expensive, taxpayer funded PR mailing, the Chancellor and Members of the Board importuned

the Foundation which bears the District's name, to "Grant" \$40,000 to the Citizens for Higher Education Committee. This committee was formed to support the \$148,000,000 Bond Measure (Measure A) on the November ballot.

I have zero tolerance for people who abuse their public trust by spending tax dollars to influence voters in an effort to ensure the outcome of a proposed election.

Here is a summary of my position on the bond, Measure A:

- Asbestos removal and Earthquake retrofitting, which account for \$22,000,000, are deferrable items. A 2% area unemployment rate demands that consideration.
- High tech facilities should be built with matching funds from high tech companies
- Excess property assets should be leased or sold. Property south of HMB could provide > \$1,000,000 if leased for golf course development.
- Cañada College could share its site with a compatible research firm while still supporting its current enrollment. With more education being accomplished on-line, enrollment should not be expected to rise. Revenue potential unknown, but should exceed \$2,000,000/year.
- The District should claim rights to "A Grant of Scenic and Recreation Easement", executed in 1969, over 4,500 acres of Southern Watershed Property. This would provide additional revenue from golf courses, and, field and track facilities. This Grant was ostensibly made to compensate citizens of San Mateo County for the added costs incurred in rerouting I-280. This rerouting added an extra half mile to the commute. The accrued costs in pollution, time lost, and fossil fuel are substantial. And, they continue in perpetuity. This has the potential to raise an additional \$2,500,000 to the District's annual income.
- Property Taxes contribute \$4162/FTES-year to the District. [FTES=Full-Time Equivalent Student] Fairness suggests that tuition, currently \$264/year for FTES, should be raised to at least  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the tax contribution. At the current enrollment of 13,962, this would raise an additional \$2,125,016 to the District's annual income.

Implementation of the above obviates the need for debt financing.

Vote "NO!" on Measure A

Vote for Jack Hickey and Margret Schmidt

## **September meeting notes**

by J. R. Prohaska

The beginning part of our meeting consisted of a meeting with the mayor of Foster City, while the remainder of the meeting was our legislative caucus and other miscellaneous issues.

#### **Meeting with Deborah Wilder, Mayor of Foster City**

Deborah Wilder did us the honor of attending our business meeting to discuss her campaign for the 21st State Assembly seat and her approach to political issues.

We had a vigorous and frank discussion about her main campaign issues which are Education, Public Transportation, and Workforce Housing. Wilder, who is currently Mayor of Foster City, is generally in favor of keeping government out of business and as local as possible. She also says she believes in "responsible gun ownership". While in favor of charter schools, she did not offer free-market approaches to her public transportation and workforce housing issues.

The issue was whether the LPSM would refrain from running a candidate against her if her positions were satisfactory to the LPSM. Steve Marsland made an amendment to a motion by Jack Hickey to ask Mayor Wilder to include free market solutions in her campaign positions, in which case we might decide to not run a candidate, and this motion passed unanimously (7-0). ([See next issue.](#))

## **Legislative caucus**

The main order of business was our Caucus for the various upcoming legislative races. The following candidates were all approved unanimously (7-0):

Barbara Less 12th Congressional  
Joe Dehn 14th Congressional  
Jack Hickey 11th State Senate  
Loki Freyer 12th State Assembly  
Steve Lundry 19th State Assembly

*[Publisher's note: Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Freyer dropped out of the race and Mike Staninec of San Francisco stepped forward to take his place in the race.]*

## **Frank Adam's departure**

Frank Adam, our Campaigns Chair, briefly attended the meeting to let us know in person that he was resigning from his chairmanship due to personal conflicts. We all joined in thanking him for his contributions and wished him the best in the future.

## **Marketing and membership letters**

J.R. Prohaska was to post his revised Marketing and Membership letters within five days so the Executive Committee e-mail list for final review so they can be sent out in October. The membership letter is to get a final revision prior to going out with the candidates' petitions mailing.

J.R. also mentioned he has exchanged e-mails with Jacob Hornberger regarding how we might reach out to Hispanic voters. He hopes to continue working on this over the next year.

Support your local libertarian candidates:  
Matt Grocott for San Carlos City Council and  
Raymond M. Bell Jr. for Sequoia Union High School District

## **Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:**

Wednesday, October 21

Hobee's Restaurant ([Directions to Hobee's](#))

1111 Shoreway Road, Belmont; just off Ralston, on the bay side of Highway 101

Dinner: 6:00--7:30pm in the reserved dining room

Business meeting (closed): 6:30--8:45pm in the dining room alcove.